

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, before line 1:*

This application is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/IB98/01919, filed on November 23, 1998, which claims priority to GB 9724725.8, filed on November 21, 1997, and GB 9812202.1, filed on June 5, 1998.

*Please replace the paragraph at page 27, line 29, with the following:*

Expression of human  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin in *E. coli* was achieved by Peng et al. (Peng, Z. Y. and Kim, P. S. A protein dissection study of a molten globule., Biochemistry. 33: 2136-41, 1994). DNA comprising the four *ala* exons was synthesized using oligonucleotides corresponding to codons characteristic for *E. coli*. Transformation of *E. coli* BL21 was with a T7-polymerase based vector, providing the promoter, translation initiation and transcription termination site from the T7 bacteriophage. Mutations in *ala* encoding regions involved in folding and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding have been constructed. The plasmid pALA carries the entire human *ala* gene, pALD- the  $\alpha$ -domain gene of ALA, pALA-*ala* with the [cystein] cysteine residues changed to alanine. pALA-AZ carries the *ala* sequence mutated to replace [cysteins] cysteines 61, 73, 77 and 91 with alanines (Peng, Z. Y. and Kim, P. S. A protein dissection study of a molten globule., Biochemistry. 33: 2136-41, 1994). In pALA-BZ the [cysteins] cysteines 6, 28, 111 and 120 were changed to alanines, and in pALA (28-111) a single disulphide bond between [cysteins] cysteines 28-111 remained while all other [cysteins] cysteines were changed to alanines. Mutational inactivation of the disulphide bridges in the  $\beta$  sheet and between the domains of the molecule destroy the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding site (pALA-BZ).